

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-5, 7-8, 11-12, 19, and 21-28 are pending. By this response, claims 5, 7, 8, 12 and 19 have been amended. Claims 3-4 have been previously withdrawn. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

**§112, 1st paragraph**

Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended the claim 5 to clarify the intended interpretation of the claim language. In this respect claim 5 now recites:

"said first molding core includes a tip part adjacent to said terminal end, said tip part having a length extending from said terminal end to another portion of said first molding core, said another portion having a radially outer dimension which is larger than a radially inner dimension of said opening."

Applicant respectfully submits that the it is the "said another portion" and not "said tip part" that is defined by the radially outer and inner portions. Applicant respectfully submits that such recitation of the claims is supported by the disclosure.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**§112, 2nd paragraph**

Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 19 and 21-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 on Page 3 of Office Action, it appears to Applicant that these issues are based on the misunderstanding of claim 5 as discussed above relative to Section 112, first paragraph rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 5 for Section 112, first paragraph rejections also overcomes the rejections with respect to paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the

Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

With regard to paragraphs 8-11 on Page 3 Office Action Applicant has amended "said end part" to "said terminal end part" in each of claims 7, 8, 12 and 19 to provide proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of claim 21 on Page 4 of Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 defines the inner dimension of the radius opening of the inner peripheral surface having a length that is constant. This length extends between the terminal ends of the first and second cores when they make contact with the preform. This language is clear that the inner peripheral surface has a constant length the distance between the first and second cores when initial contact is made with the preform. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**Prior Art Rejection**

Claims 2, 5, 7-8, 11-12, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeuchi in view of Budinski; Claims 21, 22, 25, 26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the Ikeuchi in view of Marechal, and further in view of Budinski; claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeuchi, Budinski, Marechal and Shimizu (JP 60-171234); claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeuchi, Budinski, Marechal and Ariyoshi (2003/0072080); and claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeuchi, Budinski, Marechal and Yoneda (2005/0172671). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has stated that Ikeuchi teaches the all the claimed features of independent claims 5 and 21 except "a molding surface with depression or projections"<sup>1</sup> which is alleged to be taught by Budinski and with respect to claim 21 heat being applied or the material of the core"<sup>2</sup> alleged to be taught by Marechal. Applicant disagrees with the Examiners interpretation of teachings by Ikeuchi.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraphs 2 and 10 of the Office Action

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 9 of the Office Action

Specifically, Applicant submits that the drawings (Figs. 1 and 4) do not show "a receiving area that is greater than the area occupied by the lens preform, such that a gap exists" as averred by the Examiner (See, Page 5, lines 5-6 of Office Action). Applicant submits that the crescent shaped space below the preform cannot be properly equated with the claimed "gap," since such gap is defined in terms of a difference between an area occupied by the lens preform and a "receiving area bounded by the radial boundary of said restrictor," which is quite different from a space formed by a difference in volume between the chamber in which a preform is received and the preform itself. Thus, Ikeuchi fails to teach these features of independent claims 5 and 21.

Further, the claimed invention aims to improve the transfer performance of the lens element located at the edge of the micro lens array. However, the outer peripheral shoulder parts 11a2 and 11b2 of the lens 11 shown in Figure 3 (and Figure 1) of Ikeuchi is not being formed by transferring processes. Applicant respectfully submits that Ikeuchi's teachings are not related to the claimed invention and thus does not and cannot teach the details of the claimed features.

Further, Budinski and Marechal fail to remedy the deficiencies of Ikeuchi. Thus, the combination of Ikeuchi and Budinski by themselves or combined with Marechal fail to teach all of the features of independent claims 5 and 21. Furthermore, dependent claims 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 19, 23, 24 and 27 are also distinguished from the cited art for at least their reliance upon independent claims 5 and 21 as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

### **Conclusion**

For at least the above reasons Applicants respectfully submit claims 2-5, 7-8, 11-12, 19, and 21-28 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings,

Registration No. 48917 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
Chad J. Billings  
Registration No.: 48,917  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
703-205-8000